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Issue #51
May 2 - May 15
1989

Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly **Ecomedia**

B U L L E T I N

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Cracking the SHELL

For years, Shell Oil has been the target of anti-apartheid groups in the Netherlands and all over Europe for its involvement in South Africa and its' support of the South African government. Past issues of Ecomedia have covered many of the actions against Shell taking place in Europe and the history behind them. Once again these actions merit our attention.

A four day series of actions against Shell began Wednesday April 19 in Amsterdam. The actions were aimed at blockading the main Shell research lab in Amsterdam. The research done at this lab is used by Shell's petrochemical plants in South Africa to mod-

ernize production and produce new chemicals. Rallies, workshops, theatre, film nights and gatherings were held all four days and two major blockades were held on the Thursday and Friday.

On Thursday, a blockade

took place to prevent service vehicles from entering and leaving the Shell lab. Police used tear gas and water cannons against the demonstrators in an attempt to aid vehicles



trying to enter.

On Friday, again the lab was blockaded, this time in an attempt to prevent Shell employees from entering. Em-
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Bringing the War Home

About 700 protesters blockaded the San Francisco Federal Building at 7 a.m. Monday March 3, to protest the U.S. war in El Salvador. About 50 people did the old "sit down in front of the police" action and waited to be arrested. Others tried more innovative tactics, like blocking doors while standing up and linking arms but not letting the police arrest them. People brought plastic fencing to stretch across entrances, made spray-paint stencils,

and splattered lots of paint balloons on the building and the cops. One group of about 30 protesters brought helmets, shields, padding under their clothes, and an attitude of urgency, militancy and proper disrespect for the law. Some of these protesters initiated a takeovert of an intersection, lit body bags (symbolic of the death squads in El Salvador) on fire, and knocked over a police motorcycle. The last action proved to

be foolish, because about ten undercover cops were standing nearby just waiting for an opportunity to pounce on those who had come prepared to turn up the heat on the war machine. Undercover police tackled a few people to the ground, clubbed and maced them, and squished their faces into the street. A few people who tried to unarrest their comrades were also tackled and arrested. The undercovers maced people
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Political Prisoner on Death Row in U.S.

America's only political prisoner on death row, Mumia Abu-Jamal, has been denied his appeal to have his death sentence over-turned by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

Mumia's appeal had also demanded a new trial. The March 6 high court decision ignored a multitude of fair trial violations and refused to consider the political motivations which were central in prosecuting Mumia and getting him sentenced to death.

At the time of his arrest, Jamal was President of the Association of Black Journalists in Philadelphia. He earned the cops' undying hatred especially for his sympathetic interviews with imprisoned MOVE members after the 1978 cop siege.

Mumia was framed up in the killing of a Philadelphia policeman in 1981. At the 1982 sentencing hearing, the prosecutor argued for the death sentence by claiming that Jamal's having

been a member of the Black Panther Party showed he was a committed cop-killer. The jury was assured that the death penalty would never be carried out, that Jamal would have "appeal after appeal." For years the Pennsylvania Supreme Court had held in other cases that this obviously false argument mandated automatic reversal of the death sentence upon review. But in its March 6 decision the court ignored its own precedent in its push to silence Mumia by execution.

At his trial, Mumia was denied counsel of his own choice. To get a hanging jury of 11 whites, the court permitted the seating of a white juror who admitted he could not be impartial, while excluding 12 prospective black jurors simply on the prosecution's request.

Jamal's appeal was supported by amici curiae (friends of the court) briefs from ACLU and the National Conf. of Black Lawyers. Ron Dellums, now chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus, appealed to Pennsylvania's Gov. Casey "to remove the cloud of death from Mr. Abu-Jamal" in a letter last November. Thousands of people around the nation have petitioned the governor to demand "MUMIA ABU-JAMAL MUST NOT DIE" as part of a campaign initiated by the Partisan Defense Committee.

Telegrams and letters should be sent to the governor:

Gov. Casey
Main Capitol Bldg., Room 225
Harrisburg, PA 17120

For more information contact:
Partisan Defense Committee
P.O. Box 99, Canal Street Station
New York, NY 10013

Source: Prison News Service

SHELL Hell cont'd...

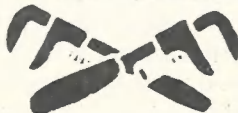
ployees on the morning shift were brought in earlier than expected in buses through the back entrance. The demonstrators arrived too late to prevent the first load from getting through. At around 9a.m. a major confrontation between demonstrators and police occurred as 6 more buses arrived with employees. Police charged the protesters and were pelted with rocks and a tear gas grenade for which they had no masks. A taste of their own poison! However, after the cops reformed they gassed the protesters and the buses got through. The afternoon shift of workers were escorted through the back entrance by armed police.

Both sides claim a victory, funnily enough for the same reason, that Shell's name was put in the news. Shell said it gained them publicity and the protesters say that it gained Shell infamy for its support of the South African apartheid regime.

Here in Canada people are slowly becoming aware of Shell's involvement in apartheid. In August 1988 a Vancouver group calling itself Shell

Busters spraypainted 21 Shell gas stations. The action left fuel pumps, signs and company trucks covered in anti-Shell/anti-apartheid messages. The group sent a communique to the press explaining Shell Canada's involvement in the South African economy. In December there was another weekend of action against Shell which included a demonstration at a local gas station blocking off traffic from entering and parking cars next to the fuel pumps. Also that same weekend about six Shell stations were spraypainted and the locks superglued. This was announced at a public demo the next day in front of Shell Corporate Headquarters. (Information on the Vancouver actions thanks to No Picnic.)

If you want to tell Shell to go to hell and give Shell Canada a piece of your mind, their toll free number is 1-800-661-1600. Phone now! Phone often!



McWorkers Unite!

The unions in Denmark are boycotting and holding actions against McDonalds. The Union for Hotels and Restaurant Employees, to which McDonalds workers belong, have had actions to get agreements and to get the employees organized since McDonalds came to Denmark about seven years ago, but for a long time McDonalds has refused even to negotiate.

The union boycott means that members must not work at McDonalds. But the people working at McDonalds are mostly young, students etc., who do not want to become members of a union; it's too expensive, they say, and they don't care about solidarity because it's only a temporary job. So the boycott has had only a small effect. Unions have also picketted some McDonalds restaurants, and called upon customers to go to other burger places, but only a few "ordinary people" are in

fact boycotting.

Other unions are supporting the campaign; for instance, the construction workers refuse to work at building or rebuilding McDonalds restaurants, the latest example being at the new shopping centre at Scala in Copenhagen. McDonalds instead hires small firms with unorganized workers. At Scala this resulted in so much union picketing that the managers tried to evict McDonalds, which obtained a court order preventing this from happening. The unions also try to hit McDonalds at their supplies of meat, bread and milk, and have stopped production of their "milk"-shakes. All french fries are delivered from Turkey, some other goods from England and Germany, so the union hopes to involve the International Food Union.

Source: Ekomedia Arhus



Dragonfly

Dragonfly Farm is looking for volunteers to help with spring gardening. In exchange for your labour, you get room, board, gardening experience and the option of growing some food for yourself. For further information contact Ecomedia or write: Dragonfly, Lake Saint Peter, Ontario.

Weaving a Web of Protest

A wimmin's call to action has been issued by WEAVE, Wimmin Empowered Against Violence to the Environment, of Detroit. They are asking all wimmin in the Great Lakes Region to come to a June 3 wimmin's only demonstration against the Detroit incinerator which is scheduled to open late spring this year.

The incinerator will burn up to 3,600 tons of garbage daily, releasing millions of pounds of toxins per year in the form of ash and smoke into the air, ground, and Great Lakes water system. As well, the incinerator, the world's largest, is only one of 30 being

planned for the Michigan/Ontario area by the turn of the century.

The WEAVE action will take place at the incinerator site on Saturday June 3. Wimmin from all cultural and political perspectives are invited to come and take part in the actions which will focus attention on the mindless commercial and industrial destruction of the environment.

WEAVE can be contacted at P.O. Box 11215, Detroit, Michigan 48211 USA for further information on the actions or just to let them know you are coming.

Another protest against the incin-

erator happened March 20 in front of the Detroit City-County Building. About 150 protesters attended to celebrate the first day of spring and to show their commitment to the rescue of the Earth. At the demo, people marched, sang, shook tambourines and generally had a good time. At one point, the demonstrators decided to head into the building to make their statement directly to Mayor Coleman Young. Security guards and cops prevented them from getting to the mayor's office and forcibly removed them.

Sources: WEAVE & Bad Attitude

FLAGS are

The importance of flags to those who rule us is shown by recent passage of the U.S. Senate, by 97 votes to 0, of a law making walking on a flag a federal crime. Passersby and security guards were recently outraged by the burning of a small American flag at the Federal Building in downtown Detroit, by four people demonstrating for the right to be anti-patriotic. The date of their action coincided with a U.S. Supreme Court hearing of the criminal conviction of a demonstrator who had burned a flag as a political statement at the 1984 Dallas Republican Convention.

All flags are rags; they are symbols of the nation state in which the human spirit is trapped within artificially established boundaries guarded by men with guns. Flags teach us to love an abstraction called "my country" and forget the true nature of how we are ruled. The function of the flag can best be seen from the oppressive institutions from which they are most frequently flown; government buildings,

R A G S



police stations, courthouses, schools, and a million places of business and commerce.

Free people have no need of flags; only the slaves of nation states do. Even the red flag of revolution turns up in the hands of police state bureaucrats and those who aspire to be. The black flag of anarchy could easily suffer the same fate. Forget the symbols of revolution. Burn ALL flags! Be anarchy!

Source: Bad Attitude

El Salvador demo cont'd...

at random until the uniformed cops could move in with their clubs. Shortly after that, the police found the need to reassert their power over the demonstration. A line of undercovers synchronized with a line of uniformites and formed a wedge to encircle a large chunk of the protesters. The police were simply trying to instill a little collective fear into the group. They started pulling people out of the crowd seemingly at random, making everyone wonder who was next. As the right wing takes power in El Salvador and revolutionaries escalate the struggle there, some activists are calling for intensified resistance here. This was evident in the planning for the Federal Building action, as even the more established groups like CISPES (Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador) were supportive of low-intensity hell-raising.

The anarchist-inclined group with helmets made a very strong presence, and added a degree of fluidity to the demonstration by moving from entrance to entrance. Even when their roaming havoc wasn't very effective, they were tying up a good portion of the 275 uniformed and 60 undercover cops, who were there apparently to protect U.S. interests in El Salvador. The wide spectrum of protest tactics makes it harder for the police to control demonstrators, and creates a space for a lot of different people to get involved. If we could now only start broadening the issues in a similar manner, we could make protesting more meaningful for more people and start shaking this oppressive international order at its roots.

Source: Slingshot

MEDIA WATCH



Selling Out in West Germany

According to a recent report in the Globe and Mail (25-4-89 -A14), the green party in West Germany has moved into an alliance with the social democrats and accepted the various social democratic platforms. If this is the case, why don't they just disband and become social democrats? The greens are now learning what the social democrats learned fifty years ago—the closer they get to power, the greater the pressure to abandon the

principles that made the party an alternative to the established ones. For the basic social change we need, the parliamentary route is a dead end, and we can only hope the greens realize this before the ties they are now wearing (according to the report) cut off circulation to their brains. Both here and in Germany, the greens could contribute much more as a movement than as a political party.

Anarchist Town Hall

Friday May 5, 7:30 p.m.
519 Church St. Community Centre